

Sci

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

79-2797

7 December 1979

Mr. Benjamin C. Bradlee
Executive Editor
The Washington Post
1150 Fifteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Ben,

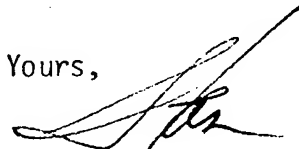
Robert Kaiser, in your December 5th edition, wrote a piece, "Diplomatic Titles Often Used to Protect Intelligence Aides." In it he describes a theory as to how one differentiates between CIA officers assigned to an Embassy and Foreign Service Officers. Without affirming or denying his formula, let me point out that his elucidation of it may put the welfare of some of our hostages at stake.

What I have in mind is that if the Iranian captors believe Robert, they will select certain employees as being members of the CIA whether they are or not. In view of the way the hostages are being treated today, I believe we should all do everything we can to avoid increasing their jeopardy. It is beyond my comprehension as to what good was served by this form of speculation. Such detail is hardly a matter of great interest to the American public. Writing and printing it does seem to me to be an act of callousness under the circumstances.

I am sorry to complain to you, but it does seem contradictory to me for the Post to express editorial support and concern for the hostages and at the same time print gratuitous information such as this which could very well contribute to the worsening of their situation.

With best regards.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

*P.S. I have no interest in
seeing this letter in print*